

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Tamotsu SAKURABA *et al.*)
) Group Art Unit: Not Assigned
Application No.: Not Assigned)
) Examiner: Not Assigned
Filed: March 18, 2004)
)
For: IMAGE FORMING DEVICE,)
IMAGE FORMING METHOD,)
DOCUMENT MANAGING)
SYSTEM, DOCUMENT)
MANAGING METHOD, IMAGE)
FORMING PROGRAM, AND)
COMPUTER READABLE)
RECORDING MEDIUM IN)
WHICH THE IMAGE FORMING)
PROGRAM IS RECORDED)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 09-307751.
2. Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-140178.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the listed non-English language documents, an English-language abstract of the documents setting forth the relevance is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 18, 2004

By: David W. Hill
David W. Hill
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Enclosures
DWH/FPD/sem

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 09473.0002	Application No. Not Assigned
Applicant Tamotsu SAKURABA <i>et al.</i>	
Filing Date March 18, 2004	Group: Not Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		09-307751	11/28/97	Japan			Abstract
		2001-140178	5/17/02	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce